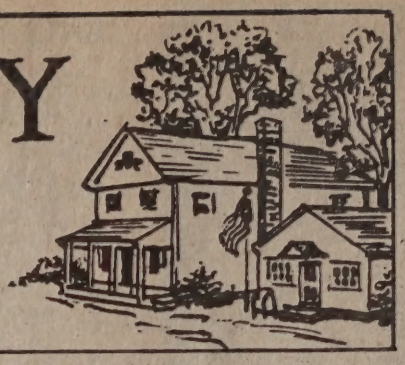
MONTEREY NEWS



MAY 1988

TOWN NEWS

Town Meeting Agenda, 1988

There are no big shockers on the warrant for the May 7 Town Meeting this year. A request by the Highway Department, not approved by the Finance Committee, for a $20,000 truck will require debate, and certain line items on the budget will need explanation, but the most thought-provoking articles are those near the end of the warrant which ask more for innovative thinking and policy making than for expenditure of funds. (See "Quickies on the Articles," #26, 27 & 28)

Voters will notice a change in the format of the warrant. It has been organized to run parallel with the state accounting system, now having accounts numbered for easy reference to state accounts. Certain standard receipts as well as receipts which require accepting vote are now grouped at the end of the budget section instead of being inserted in parentheses alongside related expenditures. Expenditures with no vote are also grouped at the end of the budget.

The Berkshire Regional School District is asking for a change in determining each town's share of its Capital Costs. Previously, the share has been based on each town's equalized valuation (or total value). The District is asking to be able to determine each town's cost based on how many pupils each town sends to the schools. The school's operating budget has long been based on number of pupils, and now, if member towns vote yes, so will their capital costs.

Budget Item Quickies

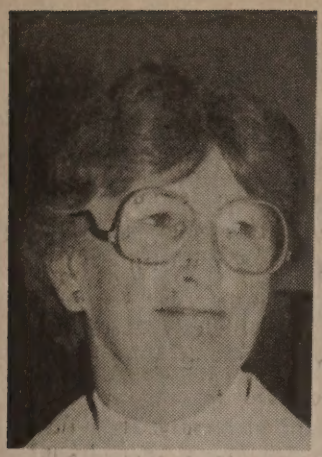
- The Town Accountant is a newly created position with salary and expenses totalling $6,500.
- The Police Chief's salary has been incorporated into the total budget for Police Protection, causing it to rise from $10,000 to $17,320.
- Plumbing Inspector is newly created, explaining the rise from a token $100 to a realistic $600.
- The $50,000 in Highway Capital is for implementing a plan to begin paving certain secondary roads in town.
- The large discrepancy between budget request for use of Free Cash and the Finance Committee Recommendation is there to allow flexibility in the use of the fund, depending on what expenditures are approved by the voters.

Quickies on the Articles:

- Article 4: The "Special Part-Time Employee" category is created to pay specialists, such as grader operators, who are called in for non-routine, part-time work. The "Unskilled Labor" category is for routine part-time workers.
- Article 8: It has already been mentioned that the Finance Committee does not recommend the purchase of a new truck for the Highway Department this year.
- Article 10: The $9,000 requested for studies of the Curtis Road Bridge will fund an engineering plan to sandblast and repair the bridge. A certified plan will enable the Town to receive state funding for the project.
- Article 21: The start-up fund for recycling may be out of place in sequence and perhaps should be relocated to follow Article 26 regarding Solid Waste Management. This Article (#26) proposes a mandatory recycling program which will coordinate with a state-run solid waste recycling facility to be located near Springfield.
- Articles 22 & 23: Finance Committee disapproval of an appropriation of funds for either Construct, Inc. or Hospice of Southern Berkshire is based not on the fact that these two agencies don't deserve support but rather on the fact that it is illegal for a Town to contribute appropriated monies to such organizations without a legal contract.
- Articles 27 & 28: The Land Bank Fund, established out of fees on land sales, is proposed to enable the Town to preserve open lands and to promote affordable housing. The Recycling Article, the Land Bank Article, and Article 28, which disapproves of the militarization of space, all are worth sticking around for, even though they come very near the end of the warrant.

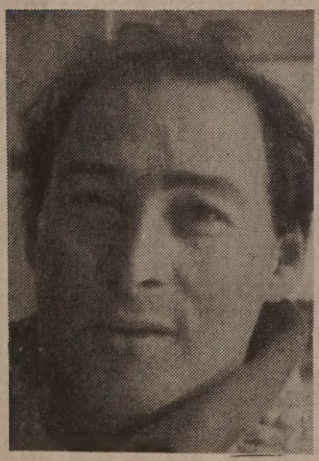
— Ellen K. Pearson

Black Fly



Georgiana O'Connell, R-D

Peter Vallianos, D



Mark Mendel, R

BALLOT FOR TOWN MEETING — May 7, 1988

MODERATOR for 1 year: **Mark J. J. Makuc**, R-D. Candidate for re-election.

SELECTPERSON for 3 years: **Georgiana C. O'Connell**, R-D. Gige will conclude 26 years of teaching when she resigns from the New Marlborough Central School in February 1990. She is at present on the Town Board of Appeals, has served as Library Trustee, and, together with her late husband, Eugene O'Connell, and several of her six daughters, has already contributed many years of Town service.

BOARD OF APPEALS for 5 years: **Dean Amidon**, R, was chairperson of the Board of Appeals when it was first formed. He is the organizing and moving force in the Lake Garfield Association. Since his early retirement last June as District Highway Engineer for Western Massachusetts he again has time for more Town service.

Peter Vallianos, D, has served on both the Board of Appeals and the Board of Assessors for eleven years. He, his wife, and their three children live on Bidwell Road in Monterey, and he maintains law offices in Great Barrington.

PLANNING BOARD for 5 years: **Mark Mendel**, R, says: "Our environment has the power to recreate us. We don't have the power to recreate our environment. We are seeing our landscape become real estate. If we could not feel the environment's power we would not care if it were developed, paved over, etc., but we can feel it. The Planning Board must be able to articulate these feelings, to speak as loud as money talks."

Wayne Burkhart, D, has been chairperson of the Town Solid Waste Committee for the past two years, and was appointed by the Selectmen to be Town representative to the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission. His graduate studies emphasized community development, with a special course in Public Policy Analysis. He is supervisor of the outside programs at Gould Farm, where he lives with his wife, his two sons, and his parrot, Patron.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS for 3 years: **Vincent Scutellaro**, R-D, has already been serving as an Assessor to fill an unexpired term. He is a carpenter and lives on Mt. Hunger Road with his wife and two children in a house he built himself.

TOWN AUDITOR for 2 years: **Hans Kessler**, R-D. Candidate for re-election.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE for 3 years: **Linda Thorpe**, R-D, says, "I love to visit old cemeteries. I make stone rubbings and trace genealogies, and I've been helping Harold Greene with the mowing." She is an Aide in the kindergarten, a school bus driver, and an Emergency Medical Technician with the Monterey Fire Company. She lives in the center of town with her three children.

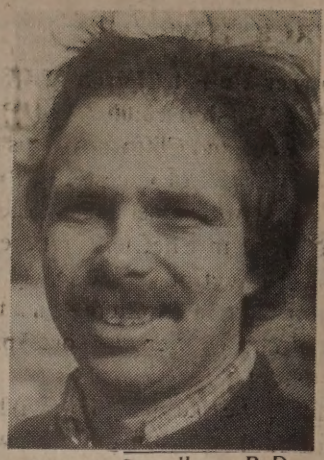
FINANCE COMMITTEE for 3 years: **Barbara Gauthier**, R-D. Candidate for re-election.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE for 3 years; vote for 2: **Eileen Clawson**, R-D. **John Higgins**, R-D. Both candidates for re-election.

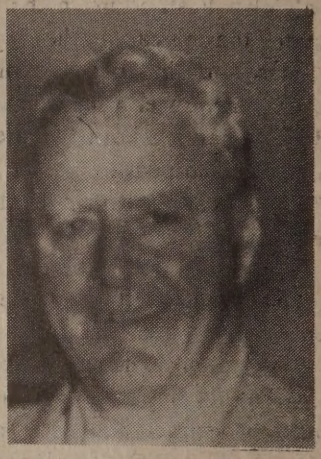
PARK COMMISSION for 3 years: **Frances A. Amidon**, R-D. Candidate for re-election.

TOWN CLERK for 1 year: **Barbara B. Swann**, R-D. Candidate for re-election.

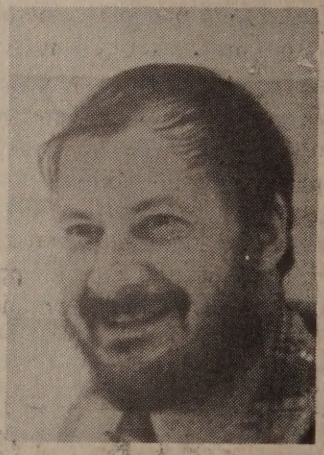
TREE WARDEN for 1 years: **Roger C. Tryon**, R-D. Candidate for re-election.



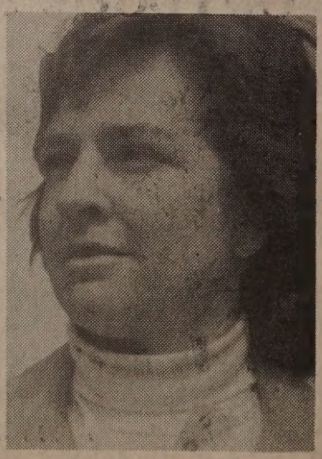
Vincent Scutellaro, R-D



Dean Amidon, R



Wayne Burkhart, D



Linda Thorpe, R-D

CHURCH NEWS

Monterey United Church of Christ
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM *(note change in time)*

The Reverend Clifford Aerie is being welcomed by Monterey United Church of Christ as its new pastor.

With his wife Janet and children Joshua and Arianna he has been living in Sheffield, where he has a studio for multi-media productions. Since early January he has been leading worship here in Monterey on a temporary part-time basis. A vote of church members on April 17 made the arrangement permanent.

Cliff (as he likes to be known) has a background as musician, photographer, actor, director, writer and producer as well as in theological studies. He is ordained in the Presbyterian Church and also holds standing in the United Church of Christ. He has stated that his calling "lies in leading people through a creative process of ministry that explores life as a journey of faith."

Janet is a counselor in gerontology. Joshua plays cello and gardens. Arianna likes to create homes for fairies and hopes to play harp someday.

The Aeries expect to move into the parsonage on Otis Road in mid-May.

Jed Lipsky Retires from Selectman Post

Jed Lipsky, present chairman of the Board of Selectmen and board member for the past nine years, has announced that he will not run for re-election. Although he says he has very much enjoyed his years as a Selectman and especially his work with the many thoughtful, hard-working townspeople who have participated in Town government in various capacities, Jed feels that the time constraints and other priorities in his life won't permit the kind of involvement required to do a good job as Selectman. He says he intends to stay involved with the Town in advisory roles and as a member of the Conservation Commission and that he looks forward to having more time to spend with his family.

New Historical Commissioner

Barbara Swann has been appointed to fill Robert Ensign's term on the Historical Commission.

A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, MARCH 26

The Special Town Meeting was called principally to accept the generous offer by Monterey Grange No. 291 of their hall to become Town property with the proviso that the Grange retain certain meeting rights in the building. In a Resolution, the Town formally thanked the Grange for this timely gift. The building is already in use as the Town Hall pending further decisions concerning enlargement or additions or the ultimate location of a new Town Hall elsewhere. Articles 7 & 8 on the warrant specified a new kindergarten to be included in the feasibility studies into the future of the Town Hall.

Other business included articles on Town employee benefits, the appropriation of funds for reimbursements and unpaid bills and the disposal of junk cars. A previous bylaw on the car issue was amended to include the car owner, as well as the owner of the premises where the car is located, in the liability for its proper disposal.

District School Superintendent Tom Consolati spoke to the meeting on both long-term and short-term kindergarten needs. He would welcome even a temporary change immediately: structural reinforcement, more space, a parking area, and school bus loading space. There will be 21 children in the kindergarten next year, fifteen of them from Monterey. In the long term the School Committee would welcome a location in the center of town, and a building which combined the Town Hall and the kindergarten. The School Committee has already put aside $20,000 to further this goal.

— David P. McAllester

Dump Stickers

There will be Town Office hours on Saturdays for the sale of Monterey dump stickers.

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BEARTOWN STATE FOREST

. Spring is finally here (I think), and Beartown is beginning to move into full swing. My favorite harbinger of spring is the flicker, a jay-sized woodpecker known locally, I believe, as the yellow-shafted or northern flicker. His white rump patch, most notable in flight, is a good way to identify the bird. As one of the only, if not the only, woodpecker species that is migratory, they return when the ground has thawed enough for them to gobble up ants, their favorite food. Each spring at Beartown I have seen them in small flocks moving about the newly open fields.

Speaking of open fields, the Beartown entrance area on Blue Hill Road has about reached the end of its landscaping plan. The finishing touches on that four-year effort were applied by Ward's Nursery of Great Barrington. Ward's, through the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture's Adopt-A-Space Program, voluntarily contributed planning expertise, materials, and manpower to assist us with that project. Many thanks to those folks for their aid.

Also in the way of landscaping projects was the concerted effort made during the 1987 summer season at the northern entrance to Beartown in South Lee. Through the Governor's Beautification Program we obtained funds to implement a landscaping plan at that site. With a tremendous group effort on the part of the entire Beartown crew, guided by Ranger Francis Rathbun's landscaping expertise, we were able to win the Berkshire County regional competition. In the statewide, agency contest Beartown placed second, surely a tribute to the hard work of all involved. Unfortunately, the entire shrubbery portion of that project was stolen by unknown persons. Words do not easily describe our disappointment at that loss to vandals, but neither do words adequately describe our continued resolve to repair the damage.

On a final note, I would like to pay tribute to Richard Happel, writer of the *Berkshire Eagle*'s "Notes and Footnotes" column. Mr. Happel's recent death will be felt in this little corner as we often benefitted from his vast wealth of information on local history. I feel privileged to have made that literary contact but also feel a personal loss at not ever having personally met him. The Berkshires have truly lost a good friend.

And as for you, friends of Beartown, we hope to see you soon! Which way to the beach?

— Tom O'Brien

MONTEREY GRANGE

The Monterey Grange, No. 291, met April 6 for a regular meeting and a springtime program. The Grange has been invited to Youth Night, May 6, at 7:30, at Pittsfield Grange No. 14. The Conservation Exhibit is now at the Post Office during Grange Week, April 24-29.

Monterey Grange will host Pomona at Umpachene Grange Hall, April 27.

The Grange had its next regular meeting April 20 at which Bingo was played. The Grange has been invited to Stockbridge Grange No. 295 for Pink & Green Sash Night, April 22. We were also invited to Plainfield Grange the same night. The Grange will have a fund raiser at Price Chopper, May 23. New tables have been ordered.

The next meeting will be May 4 when Deputy Robert Peck will make his official visitation.

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer

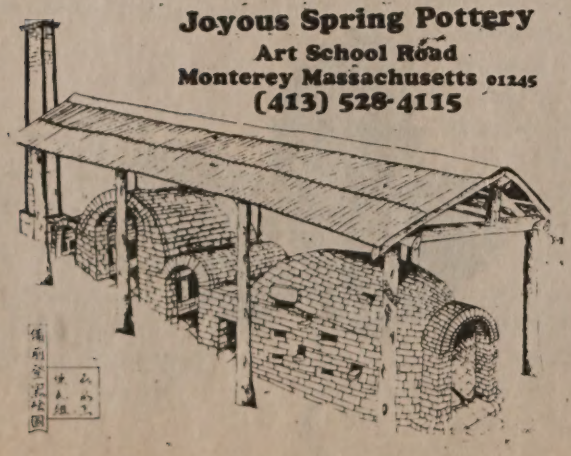
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

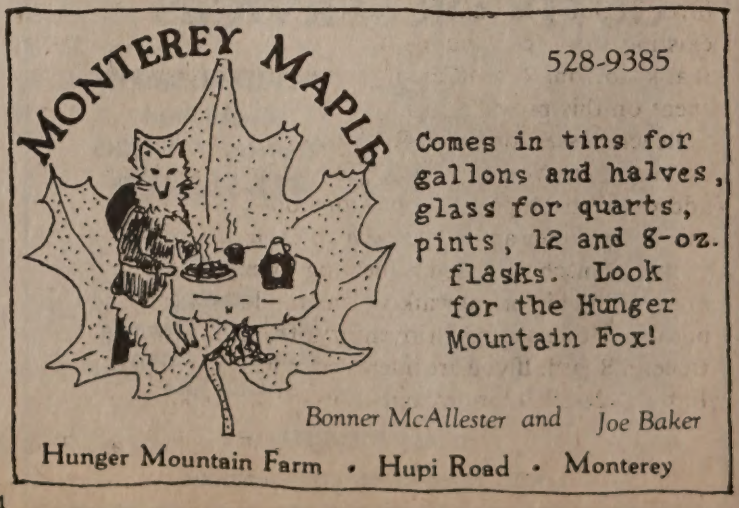
The Conservation Commission met April 11 in the Grange Hall and held a public hearing on the proposed shoring-up of an old boat house on Lake Garfield. The boathouse is one of the old Camp Shalom buildings and has been slowly settling into the lake. The new owners of the property, Mr. and Mrs. Susser, want to fix it up and have hired engineers and carpenters to do the job. The Conservation Commission was pleased to approve the project, especially as the "excavating" will be done by hand shovel by an expert from Rochester, New York.

Other concerns during the past month have included a little oil spill in a buffer zone (this means it was within 100 feet of a wetland), which is all cleaned up now, and a driveway proposal in a brookbed. The driveway is now going to be moved over.

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be May 9 in the Grange at 7:30 p.m. Anyone contemplating dredging, filling, or altering the landscape in a wetland or within 100 feet of a wetland should not proceed without consulting the Conservation Commission first. This includes oil spills, driveways, and boathouse restorations.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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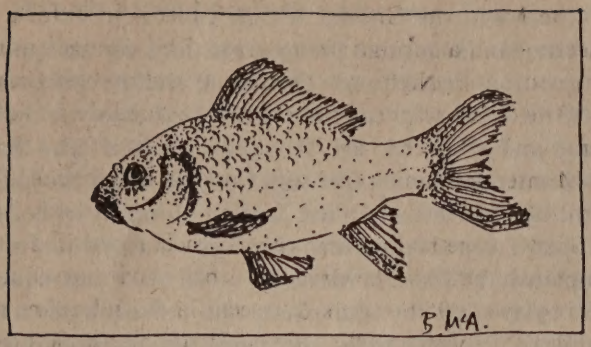

TOWN BEACH JOBS WITH THE PARK COMMISSION

The Park Commission of the Town of Monterey is looking forward to another major beach season with improved facilities and additional supervised hours. Once again, we are looking for a staff of motivated personnel to make our beach program a success.

We need a certified lifeguard, 18 years or older, or we will pay for a certification course for the right person. Also needed will be an assistant lifeguard ($6.00/hour for the lifeguard and $4.50 for an assistant).

The Park Commission will continue the tradition of swimming lessons with the Red Cross program, and we need a qualified instructor.

Finally, we need a parking attendant to manage beach traffic (5.50/hour).

Anyone interested in these positions call: Fran, 528-1233, Dek, 528-3184 or Tom, 528-9380.

PARK COMMISSION

Spring means robins, forsythia, crocuses—it also means fishermen, walkers, runners, biking and boating. The snow flurries MUST be history by now, and warmth, mayflies and spring cleaning in full swing.

ALSO tennis is a spring sport! Our hopes and plans have been dashed! Our plans of tennis for Monterey residents at Camp Deerwood this summer have been *cancelled.* We feel badly to have worked so hard and come so far, but never fear—investigation into building courts in the future, and/or using existing ones is continuing, with various possibilities. Special thanks to Tom Rosenthal for the patient unending time he has spent on this project.

Beach passes for Town Residents only will be issued much as last year. You may write for yours—enclosing a self-addressed envelop to receive it, or stop at the Town office. At this writing, they are not yet available, but will be very shortly.

Bob Rausch attended a meeting to express an interest in reviving old historical walking trails and developing new ones in town. He suggested an inventory of same to be posted on the Bulletin Board. If you are interested in working on this, contact Bob at 528-3219, or any one of us. Sounds like a great idea.

— Fran, Dek, and Tom
Park Commissioners

LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION

The Lake Garfield Association Meeting will be held Saturday June 25, at 10:00 a.m. at the new dam at Beartown Road. If it rains, the meeting will be held in the church basement. The lake is filled. I am also including a report on the Lake Garfield Dam that I wrote in 1971.

Dean P. Amidon, Pres.
Lake Garfield Association

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MONTEREY LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

The Monterey Land Trust sponsored an open meeting with State Representative Chris Hodgkins on April 22 at 8 p.m. at The Grange. Mr. Hodgkins discussed pending Land Bank legislation in the State Legislature. Approximately thirty people attended the meeting, and the discussion was lively.

Mr. Hodgkins opened the meeting by discussing his concern and commitment to open space preservation and affordable housing in Berkshire County. As the representative for 19 small towns and communities, he is in the unique position of consistently and constantly travelling through the back roads of the Southern Berkshires. Over the last five years he has seen areas in all communities which were once wooded or open fields become developments. In addition, Mr. Hodgkins noted that although he had been fortunate to purchase a home sometime ago for a reasonable price, many people he knew found themselves priced out of the market.

Mr. Hodgkins then discussed the recent history of Land Bank legislation. About five years ago Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket went to the State Legislature and asked for Home Rule for a Land Bank and were given that opportunity. Since that time over 32 towns in Massachusetts have requested the same legislation. The State Legislature is considering a bill which will give all communities in the state the opportunity to decide whether they wish Land Banks. Therefore, there will be one bill concerning Land Bank legislation rather than many bills for each community wishing to preserve open space in this manner.

Essentially the legislation would give each town in Massachusetts the opportunity to decide if it wants a Land Bank and how that Land Bank would be structured under the guidelines of the bill. A Land Bank, for those unfamiliar with the term, means in this case that a town could tax real estate transactions and then put that tax money into a separate account which could then be used to purchase land that the town wishes to preserve for open space or use in combination with open space and affordable housing. Presently the specifics of the bill are that the seller of the property must pay a tax of no more than 1% of the purchase price with an exemption for first-time home buyers. The town then decides how that money is apportioned and spent under the guidelines of the bill.

After Mr. Hodgkins's presentation there was an opportunity for questions and answers. The area of greatest concern seemed to be the method of taxation: how the monies would be collected and allocated. Mr. Hodgkins made it clear that each town must decide that question for itself under the guidelines of the bill. For instance if the Town of Monterey wished to have an open Town meeting each time a purchase of land was contemplated, the Town of Monterey could place that requirement in its bylaws and any other exemption and requirement that the people of the Town wish. The legislation simply enables those towns who wish to have a Land Bank to do so.

The other area of discussion was more specific to the Town of Monterey. The question was asked regarding what amount of money would that mean to Monterey if the Town had a Land Bank. The amount would probably be less than $100,000. Clearly, that is not a great deal of money in terms of today's land prices. How then would the Town appropriate the additional monies needed to purchase a piece of property? There was discussion concerning bond issues and other state programs which at present make monies available such as the Rural Self Help Program and cooperation with local land trusts. Mr. Hodgkins made it clear that the legislature is much quicker to act for those towns that take the initiative to preserve their open space as opposed to last-minute attempts to stem a large development.

Finally there was discussion regarding a warrant which is scheduled for this year's Town meeting to advise the legislature to pass the Land Bank bill. The warrant is simply an advisory to the legislature and is not a bill or binding law. Mr. Hodgkins reiterated the need for this bill and his own concern regarding the preservation of land in Berkshire County, both farm land and open space as well as the opportunity for young people who have grown up in this area to be able to purchase a home.

— Nicki Hearon

Trillium, about to bloom, by Joe Baker

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MONTEREY LIBRARY NOTES

The Monterey Library will be a very busy place over the summer, since we have several different programs lined up. We hope that as many people as can will participate.

First, the Monterey Library will offer a reading-discussion series for area residents entitled "Crime and the Cultural Landscape." The program will be funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy. Participants will read and discuss six books illustrating the theme. The programs will be held on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. during June, July and August at two-week intervals.

Each program will include a short presentation by a scholar of literature and discussion in one or more small groups. The first program on Monday, June 13, will be on *A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

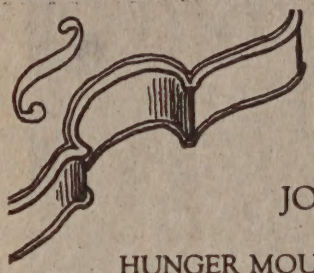
Subsequent programs will be on *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie; *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett; *Bonecrack* by Dick Francis; *Shroud for a Nightingale* by P. D. James; and *Death in a Tenured Position* by Amanda Cross.

Participants may attend one, several or all of the programs. Paperback copies of the books will be available for loan at the Library closer to the time of the first program. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, to register and to obtain books, call the Library at 528-3795, or me, at 528-4723.

For children we have two programs in mind. First, the Library will once again be sponsoring a program designed by Leslie Scutellaro, who worked so well with the children in last year's successful puppetry workshop. This year she will be offering something different—a workshop on Greek mythology, including re-telling of the myths, learning about ancient Greek life, and arts and crafts on Greek themes. As for last summer's workshop, the Arts Council is offering funding. Space will be limited to ten children, aged 5 to 8. The workshop will meet on Tuesday mornings in July. For further information call me or the Library.

We hope to have a summer reading program for the children, too. The theme of this year's program sponsored by the Western and Central Massachusetts Regional Library Systems is "Super Sleuth." The program highlights mystery and detectives, and should appeal to older as well as younger children. The program is designed to encourage young sleuths to visit their library throughout the summer months and enjoy the resources the Library has to offer. There is no limit to the number of children who can participate.

— John Higgins
Chairman, Library Trustees



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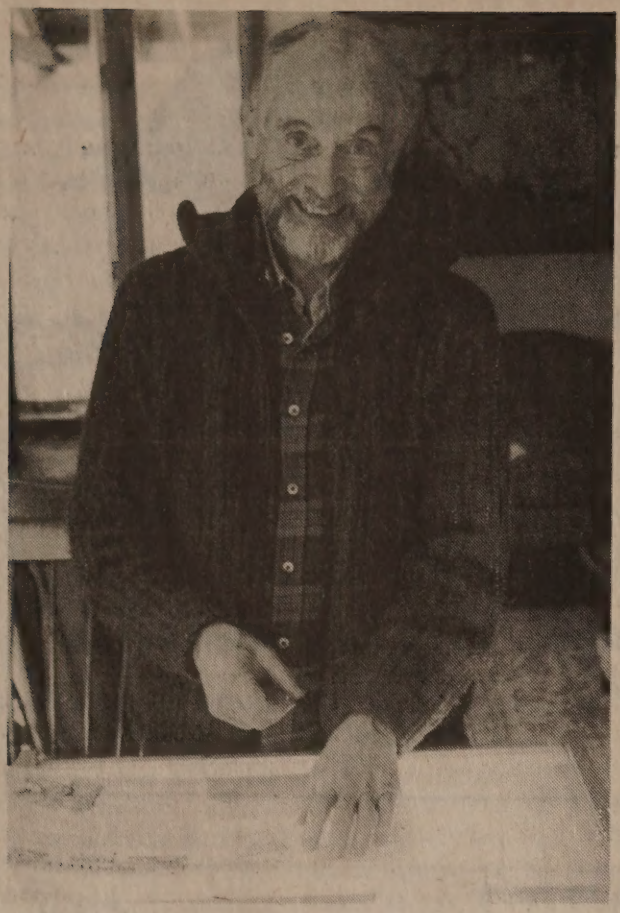

SUSAN McALLESTER

The Editor, David P. McAllester, pastes up the News *ready for the printer*

VOX ED

On April 7 we had a family party, at Edith Wilson's house, of the people who help get out the *Monterey News*: when we made up the invitation list what a family it turned out to be! There are at least thirty people in town who put their backs into the production of each issue: artists, writers of columns, writers of special features, poets, letter writers, sorters, editors, typesetters, and more. Add to that an average of two dozen or so advertisers: they are an integral part of the interests and possibilities contained in the *News*. Finally, down at the end of the line, Walter Parks, our unfailingly cheerful and helpful postmaster, gives us the final boost into the blue yonder, which includes most of the states of the Union and several foreign countries. We must be the largest association, united in a common purpose, in town!

Not everyone could come to the party, but lots did, along with their spouses, children, and infants. Nearly everyone there met someone they hadn't seen before, even in this small town on our small paper, which was one of the reasons for the party. Another reason was to have a labeling and enveloping bee to get out our annual funding appeal. It went to nearly 1,200 addresses, of which only 330 are in Monterey. Of course the Monterey addresses double in the months our summer residents are here, but still only half our readership are current Montereyans of one kind or another.

The *News* has always included local history as one of its features, but it is, itself, becoming historic. The Library now has a complete run of all the issues since the first one in March, 1970. The first masthead names a staff of 22 (of whom 20 were women) and two of these, Sally Fijux and Edith Wilson, still contribute richly to the paper. When I took a look at that first issue, it was very hard to put it down again; a glance at any issue, makes it clear that next we need an index to the hundreds of interesting items that have been accumulating over these eighteen years.

To get back to our almost 1,200 addresses, that means several times that number of readers. Perhaps it is not too presumptous to say *this* is the full *Monterey News* family, because what is all this effort, what is a paper, without readers?

— David P. McAllester

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SUSAN McALLESTER

The new Town Hall, generous gift of the Grange to the Town

SUSAN McALLESTER

Maryellen Brown, Town Secretary, in her new habitat

MONTEREY WASTELINES

The Logic of Article 25

Behold, how good it is when all the citizens of a community join to accomplish a task for the common good.

I learned voluntarism in the sixth grade, pumping water at Woodland School (Maple River Twp #6) and carrying it in open pails to the fountain in the corner of the school room. There was no law saying that I had to do it, but Mrs. Snider was not very young, and Jerry and I were the biggest students. Jerry could wait me out, and besides, my mother was on the school board. So there I was—the volunteer of the hour, most every day.

I see lots of signs of volunteer effort in Monterey, as well. Town government takes intensive effort. The pay is always modest, often nil, for those who keep our government neighborly, informal and close to home. Many people and their community efforts outside of government are even less noted—Fire Company, scouting, sports, newspaper, church and neighborly entertaining events take place every day.

It's been gratifying to our Monterey Solid Waste Committee members to see the newspapers piling up in the shed (three or four tons have been taken, so far), put there by Monterey citizens to help the commonweal by keeping down the tonnage of gunk we throw away. That's been a voluntary program, and you have voluntarily undertaken that extra thought and task, for the common good.

So why do we come now with a proposal for mandatory recycling? Why do the Solid Waste Committee and the Selectmen unanimously support passage of a bylaw to make people separate solid waste before bringing it to the transfer station? What has happened to our faith in the voluntary spirit?

Well, there are several reasons why Town representatives felt that a firm start is necessary for a broader program of recycling. Newspapers are fairly easy to prepare for recycling, and, as I've said, the program is working fine. But we all get busy (I won't say lazy!) in the operation of our households from time to time, and a strange, new recycling effort may hit us cold without a by-law to encourage us to comply. To have an effective program of recycling of glass, tin and other eligible materials, we need the co-operation of everyone. I think that passage of a by-law is necessary to make it work.

If we recycle these types of materials, we will cut down on the tonnage of waste which we now pay big money to haul away and dump. This will save at least $6000-$8000 per year and will, of course, also minimize the use of good earth as landfill space.

There are several other reasons to pass the proposed by-law, Article 25 on the warrant. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will grant the Town some valuable equipment to help the recycling program (see article in this issue of *Monterey News*), but only if we pass a mandatory by-law to insure an adequate volume of recyclable materials. The last reason I'd mention is a bit negative. I've heard that some individuals will recycle "only if they pass a law and make me do it." I hope this doesn't represent Monterey citizen opinion, but, as is our long tradition, we will thresh this out democratically at the May 7 Town Meeting, and the majority will decide what course to take.

— Wayne Burkhart

HAIKU FOR A NEAT GARDENER:
(or, Grass will be grass)

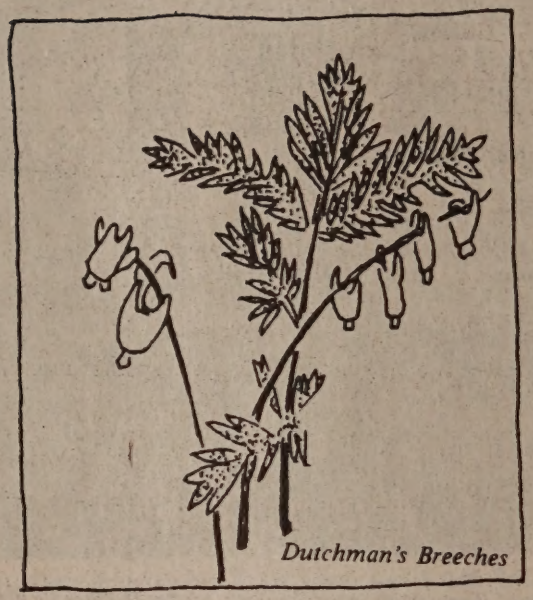
Land scarred by garden
Creeping softening greening
God heals earth with grass

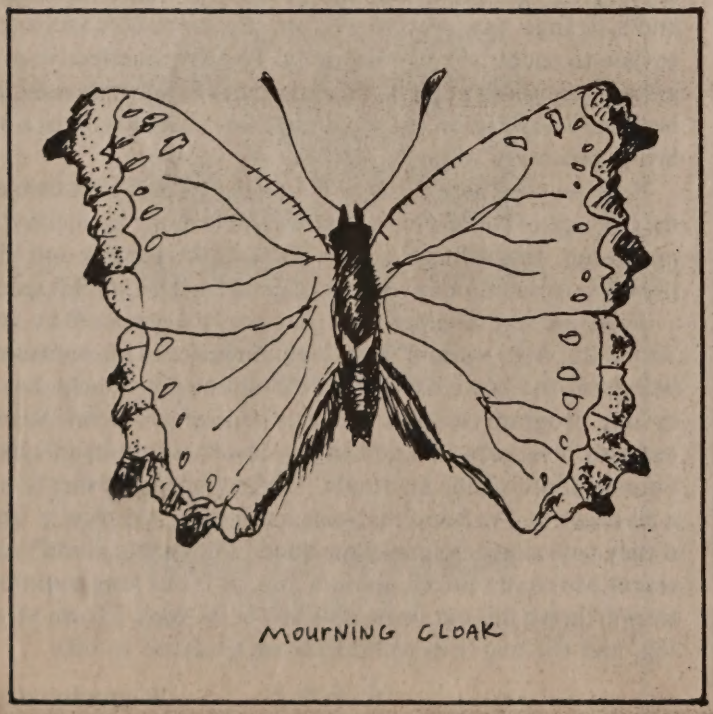
— Mary Ward

FIBONACCI AT THE KITCHEN DOOR

Fronds of one stock furl
mathematically considerate
of each other's surging
into space,
their rectitude
the straightest line in nature;
their modesty in touching curl
of heads bowed
in proportion's acknowledgement
of place.
I am undone, dear Fibonacci,
by this green and silent sermon
of humble harmony's
return.
An old testament of ordered law—
a new testament of beauteous portent—
a family of fern.

— A. O. Howell





SEASONALS

It is quiet in winter,
A quiet occasionally disturbed
by the whine of the wind—
or spinning wheels.

Sounds—few in the solitude—
are swallowed
by the snowy fields
and the long darkness.

Now—again—spring has come.
The matted, wind raked meadows
Still wear the weight of winter
here and there—
blue-white in the north shade
of trees—and bright red snow fences—
the last snow lingers.

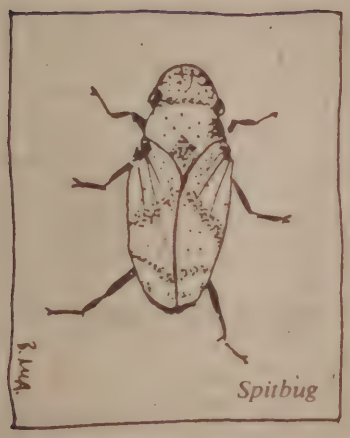
On the hazy air
floats
the cry of geese and
disembodied voices
from the seasonal house
—over there.

— Frank D'Amato

SPRINGTIME REVEILLE

When I awake at daybreak
And hear a robin sing
Among the apple blossoms
And lilacs in the spring,
As a soft breeze blows their fragrance
Across my window sill,
I can hear the distant drumming
Of a partridge on the hill.
Then the clear notes of the oriole
Salute the warm spring air
While the brook is swiftly rushing
By green willows bending there.
I rejoice that it is springtime
And I am here to see
All these wonders of creation
God has given you and me.

— *Eleanor Kimberley*

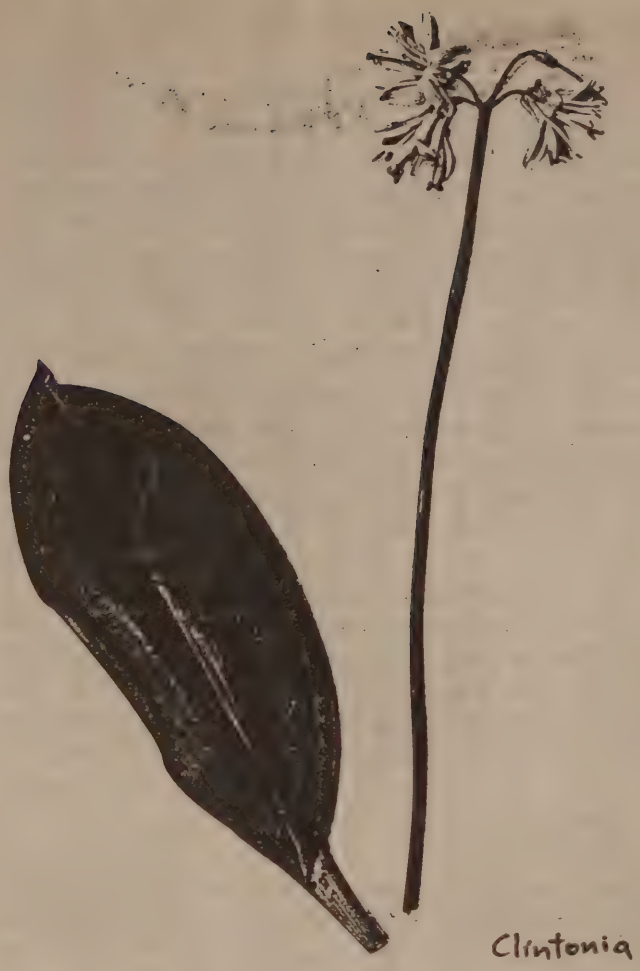


Spitbug

WITHIN

Within — new stillness —
Seeing with a choiceless mind —
The world seems boundless.

— Ann M. LaVallee



Clintonia

APRIL IN NAPLES (Florida)

The sun has been instructed to
brighten each day.

The gulf-shelled sand, and even
the tennis court, takes the
pleasure of its gift.

Weary, cold Monterey bones
rejoice as bronze
appears on limbs & face.

Spring here means flowers with
the audacity to appear
bright purple, yellow, red
on ground, bush & tree.

AH! Vacation!

— Joan Weinstein

FALCO SPARVERIUS, the Smallest Falcon

This is May, time to put in the potatoes and watch out for blackflies. We have shadbush in bloom in the woods and on the edges of meadows, forsythia in people's yards, and more and more birds back for the summer. Some we see in the feeder, but others are wilder and take a little more noticing. One of these, which appears in the distance suddenly, like the mysterious horseman on the horizon, is the solitary sparrowhawk. We have one here in town which I've often seen on the electric wires along Barnum Flat, a small falcon silhouetted against the spring sky.

The sparrowhawks, or American kestrels, are back from points south of here. They will be mating about now, and then the females will lay eggs in a nest cavity of some sort while the males do all the hunting for the pair. Sparrowhawks are only 10-12 inches long and are so slim they can use bird houses, such as martin houses, for nesting. Usually they find abandoned nest holes in hollow trees, but sometimes they will choose little nooks or hiding places on building or bridges.

The nest is never lined with any soft material except what may have been left by previous occupants. Five almost spherical eggs are laid and then most of the incubating is done by the female, with two short breaks each day when the male relieves her.

After 30 days the eggs hatch and in about four weeks the young are ready to fly. They are dependent upon their parents for food for two more weeks, and then they are ready for independent life.

The most striking field marks of the sparrowhawks are their two black "moustache marks" which surround white cheek patches. The head is slate blue, and there is a rusty patch on top. Both the males and the females are generally rusty brown, but the males have slate blue wings. Even without binoculars you can see the handsome colors and the harlequin head with its high-contrast black, white, slate, and rusty red.

We don't have many birds in this area which hover while hunting. Sparrowhawks do this commonly, choosing a spot over an open field and often giving off squeaks like a mouse. This may unnerve the mice, causing them to break from cover. Sparrowhawks may also hover for other purposes, as in this 1881 account of one near Lake Umbagog, Maine:

"In a broad expanse of hilly burnt ground . . . we saw a sparrowhawk amusing himself at the expense of two flickers. Calling clac-lac-clac-lac-clac-lac he would first hover over them for a few seconds, and then dart down past them, to rise and hover again. Whenever they took flight he accompanied them, describing graceful curves and circles above and around them. That all this was done without malice on his part seemed obvious, and the flickers evidently so interpreted it, for they showed no fear of him and more than once flew into a tree where he had just settled, alighting within a few feet of him." (Quoted from William Brewster by Edward Howe Forbush in *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, 1927.)

— Bonner J. McAllester

Sparrowhawk (Falco sparverius), *eating a mouse.*

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PERSONAL NOTES

A special salute to **Maryellen** and **Doug Brown**, and to **Linda Thorpe**, who have been officially accepted into the International Society of Jackasstronauts and have certificates to prove it! Uh . . . . To further explain, these three respected residents participated in the Buckeye Donkey Basketball extravaganza at Mt. Everett Regional on March 16. The event was held to raise money for Harold Olmstead, a very popular janitor at the school who is ill. Good for you three!

Karen Hayes, daughter of **Arnold** and **Judith Hayes** of Tyringham Road, has again been named to the Dean's List at Bridgewater State College. Karen is a senior and will be earning her degree next month. Good job, Karen!

Another outstanding scholar, **Gwynne O'Connell**, daughter of **Georgiana** and the late **Eugene O'Connell**, will receive a graduate degree in Public Administration from Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas, on May 13. Gwynne is also recipient of a Presidential Management Intern Program award, part of a highly successful program which attracts about 175 of the most qualified and talented young people to government jobs each year.

Hearty congratulations to excited new grandparents **Marvin** and **Barbara Sachs** of Tyringham Road. **Alexander Richard Bond** was born in March (they were so excited they forgot to give me the date!), son of **Jon** and **Wendy Sachs Bond**. Best wishes to all of you!

Congratulations to **Norman Rogers** of New Hartford, Connecticut, and to his son and daughter-in-law on the birth of **Jennie Dowd Rogers**, named for her great-great-grandmother, who lived on Mt. Hunger Road, here in Monterey! And thanks to **Pearl Tiffany** for this item.

Best wishes also to **Jim Edelman** and **Carol Lewis**, who have announced wedding plans for June 19!

Welcome back to the **Mendel** family, who had a good long stay in Florida. Long enough so that **Julian** learned to blow kisses and **Bridget** is now walking about! **Mark** and **Tracey** are happy to be home, and Grandma is visiting in Monterey now. Perfect!

We welcome back also **Ted** and **Leah Tchack**, who enjoyed some time in Florida, and **Bud** and **Shirley Pearl**, who have returned from Puerto Rico.

Maynard and **Gale Forbes** also managed a well-deserved getaway trip to Boston and Martha's Vineyard.

And we are most happy to hear that Finance Committee member **Sheldon Fenn** has returned to Woodburn Farm after undergoing surgery at Berkshire Medical Center. We hope it's porch weather soon, Sheldon!

Very Happy Birthday Wishes to **Anne Marie O'Connor** on March 8, to **Bob Gauthier** on March 10, to **Barbara Shea** on March 14, to **Carol Lewis** on March 30, to **Barbara Gauthier** on March 31, to **Maynard Forbes** on April 2, to **Helen Shaw** on April 12, and to **Ezra Small** on April 27. Happy Anniversary also to **Maynard** and **Gale Forbes** on April 5.

— Stephanie Grotz

Tunnels By Christopher Burkhart
"SPRING CLEANING"
Trawers, I think you should start your Spring Cleaning
Gary!, are you telling me, trawers, to clean my hole?
yup!
you do have somewhat of a point there

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Spring flower, by Sudi Baker, age 3½

GRANT AVAILABLE FOR RECYCLING

A state grant is available to help finance the start of additional recycling in Monterey. Steve Ellis, Western Division Planner with the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE), met with the selectmen April 11 to explain the details and possibilities of the program, and to officially register Monterey on the list of towns waiting for the grants.

In order to qualify for the grant money, which could have a value of up to $10,000 to the Town, Monterey voters will have to approve a mandatory recycling by-law at the annual Town Meeting. The by-law must at least require the separation by households of their refuse into two or three categories, for pickup or delivery to the transfer station.

Monterey could receive a roll-off container with two compartments for the transfer station, some household ("set out") containers to gather the recyclable part of the household refuse, and some help with education to get the program started.

The recycling proposed is the separation of refuse into two or three parts:

1. Bottles, tin cans, old pots and pans, foil and throw-away trays and similiar materials.
2. Newspaper and corrugated paper (cardboard)
3. All other materials not recyclable.

The Monterey Solid Waste Committee and the Monterey Selectmen have sponsored an article concerning mandatory recycling on the warrant for the May 7 Annual Town Meeting. The proposed by-law would introduce an Article #10 of the Monterey Town By-laws with two sections, one calling for mandatory separation by all households of recyclable materials and the second providing for a maximum fine of $250 for any Town solid waste policy violation.

The article defines the beginning of the mandatory recycling program, if approved by Town Meeting, as 30 days after announcement by the Monterey Selectmen. The Selectmen would coordinate their announcement with the start-up of the state-operated reclamation center in Springfield, where all recycled materials would be delivered, cleaned, sorted and prepared for sale to industries.

— Wayne Burkhart

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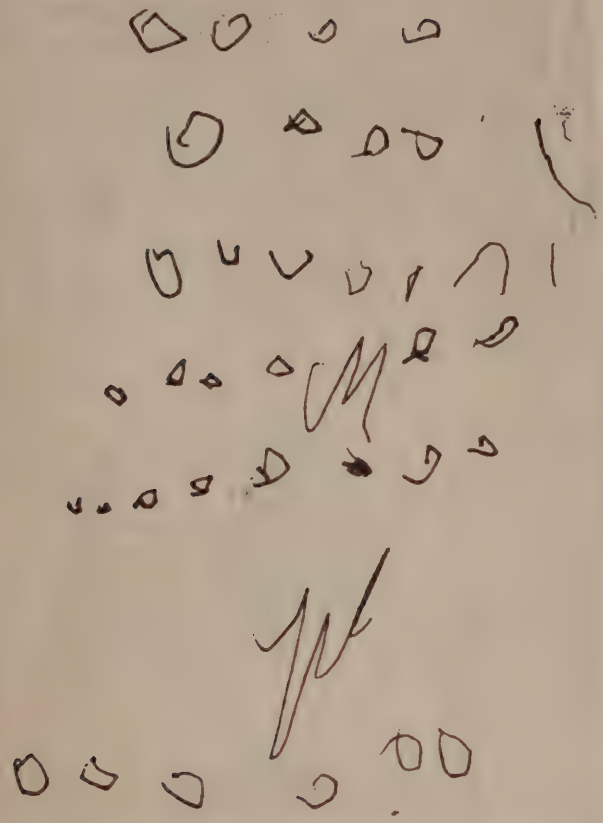
LIFE IN MONTEREY



— Sudi Baker

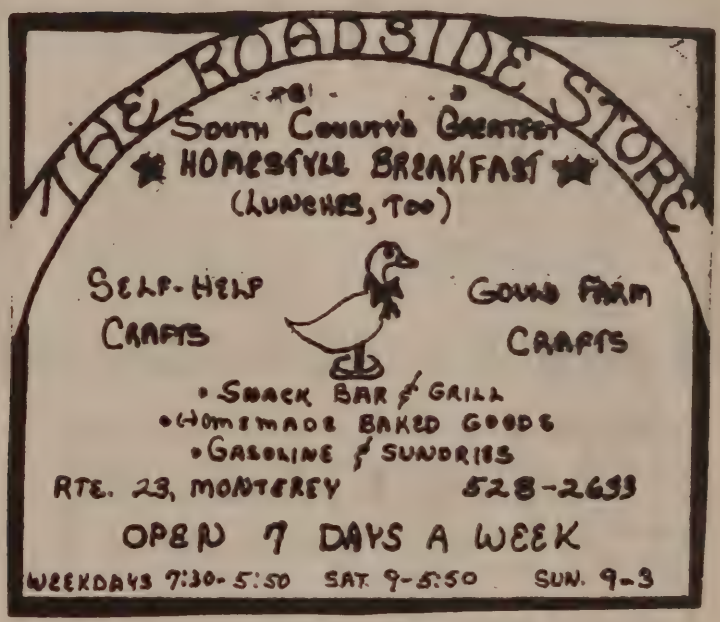
KINNE'S GROVE OPENS APRIL 22

Because we are trying to provide an atmosphere which affords a greater degree of quiet and privacy for those who rent the cottages, and because we are also trying to preserve the natural beauty of the grove and use the ramp responsibly, we are making the following changes in 1988:

1. A gate will be erected on the access road which will have posted hours when the grove will be open to public use. Present hours are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
2. Camping (including tents and trailers) will be eliminated in the immediate vicinity of the cottages. A reduced number of sites will be available by reservation only. There will be no seasonal camping.
3. We will limit the use of our ramp to residents of Lake Garfield and to fishing boats, sailboats, and canoes. We will NOT permit the launching of recreational boats belonging to non-residents of Lake Garfield that have motors in excess of 25 H.P.
4. We will permit picnicking on a limited basis by reservation only.

We reserve the right to amend the above changes—without notice—as we deem necessary.

— Lena Pedersen



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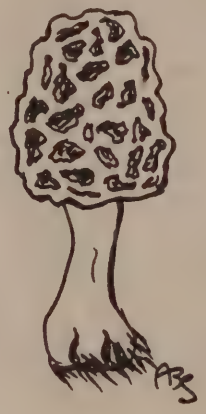
MAY! The Merry Month of Morels

If you see a strange looking eruption in your driveway one morning don't step on it or kick it away. (Call me first.) This is a favorite place for the morel mushroom to appear. They seem to like gravelly and sandy places. We in the Berkshires are fortunate to have a limestone soil, which is a characteristic habitat for this much-sought-after fungus. People who are not familiar with the morel are often dismayed by its "weird" appearance. It doesn't look at all like the store-bought mushroom.

In Italy it is known as the sponge mushroom, and this is as good a description as any—for it is usually a pale tan color and has a pitted surface and an elongated, hollow cap. It is found, too, in lawns and fields and woods, especially near old elm trees and along stream banks. In fact, it pops up anywhere it likes, and often in the same vicinity for several years. But it is known as the elusive morel because it appears only in May for about two weeks—depending on the rainfall it can be early or late May—and it has been hunted by many for years without success.

Best to let it find you! Just keep your eyes wide open in May, not only on the sky for the warblers, but also on your driveway. And if by chance you see this little darling—considered the most delicate and delicious of mushrooms for the table—try it alone sauteed in butter—but first, call me—it does have a poisonous cousin which rarely appears here. I'll be happy to identify it for you, and even eat it, if you are not so inclined.

— Alice Somers



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JOHN HIGGINS TRANSLATES

I have been deluged with requests for a translation of my Latin Library Notes from the April Fool's issue (well, that is to say, David McAllester asked me. Once.). For what it is worth . . . .

On the first of April, Monterey readers, it is proper for us to have levity of words both in mind and in mouth; it is also proper to commemorate people speaking wittily and writers of comedies, whether ancient or modern.

I name first Catullus the poet, who in a certain poem of his invited his friend Fabullus to dinner, promising a good dinner and a beautiful girl, and wine and wit and all sorts of fun, but only if Fabullus himself brought all those things. Plautus also wrote comedies, which in modern times have been produced both on stage and on film, with Zero Mostel acting the slave.

English authors also have written wittily, among whom especially (are) Shakespeare in his comedies, Jane Austen in her novels, and Jerome K. Jerome in his book *Three Men in a Boat*. In our own time, we read P. G. Wodehouse. But the Irish writers appear greater than the English: Jonathan Swift, Oscar Wilde, G. B. Shaw, Myles na Gopaleen. Our country offers us Mark Twain, the Most outstanding, the Marx brothers, Dorothy Parker. You will find all these in the Monterey Library or in the regional library system.

What else? It remains only that I should write for you a certain poem of unknown authorship of our age:

O civili, si ergo fortibus es in ero!
O nobile, deis trux. Vatis enim? Causa in dux.

There, now; aren't you glad you asked? I have left the doggerel at the end untranslated; poetry always loses something, I think. To find out the meaning, read it out loud; if that doesn't work, call me.

— John Higgins
Chairman, Library Trustees

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mondays, May 2, 9, 16, 32, 30—Bible Study Group at the Schulzes' on New Marlborough Road. Free of charge: sign up at General Store or call Karen Gottlieb-Schulze at 528-4052.
Tuesday, May 3—Prayer breakfast at the home of Alice Howell and Walter Andersen, "Friends of Silence." All welcome.
Friday, May 6—Boiler Room Reading. Matt Tannenbaum, proprietor of The Bookstore in Lenox, hosts the second Open Reading starting at 9:00 p.m. Poets and writers are encouraged to come out of their closets into the dim light of the cafe. Call 229-3195 to reserve your reading time and about admission, reservations or dinner, beforehand.
Saturday, May 7—Monterey's Annual Town Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Monterey Fire House. See first few pages of this issue for the warrant, information on candidates, and discussion of some of the issues.
Wednesday, May 11—Community Dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Social Room. Note: the date has been moved up in the month to allow publicity in the *Monterey News*. After a delicious supper, provided by ourselves, Linda Baxter will present a program on midwifery, the rebirth of an ancient art and science.
Friday, May 13—Boiler Room Reading. Elaine Grant reads a selection she calls "Poems I Like A Lot," including Dylan Thomas's "Fern Hill," Coleridge's "Xanadu," and "The Jabberwock" by Lewis Carroll. The reader will have her own props. Starting at 9:00 p.m. See May 6, above, for other details.
Saturday, May 14—Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults $4, children $1, to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385, or 518-329-7578.
Friday, May 20—Boiler Room Reading. Bob Reiss: his fourth novel, *Saltmåker*, is scheduled for publication by Viking this month. He reads from this new book, about the trial for treason of an ex-president who has refused to launch nuclear weapons in response to a supposed Soviet attack. 9:00 p.m. See May 6, above, for other details.
Saturday, May 28—Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This evening's program is for people who have done it before. For other details, see above in announcement for May 14.
Sunday, May 29—Boiler Room Reading. Mikhail Horowitz, stand-up poet, Egyptian hipster. ". . . the hottest thing since cream cheese . . . ." (*Soho Arts Weekly*) Show time 8:30, dinner from 6 p.m. See May 6 for details.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

dear friends and neighbors . . .
. . . greetings from the inner-city of Detroit, where i have been serving as a volunteer in lay pastoral ministry for almost two years . . . to come here was difficult—leaving behind so many dear friends, the budding New Spirit and the sheer beauty of the Berkshires . . . .
. . . i came out of a long period of prayer and out of that heart-felt tug where i could do no other . . . i want to publicly express my deep gratitude to Lilian Papier and Cheryl Ritchie for their faithful, dedicated and loving care and management of the New Spirit over these two years . . . and my appreciation to the many in the community who so kindly encouraged and supported the ministry of the New Spirit.
. . . when i left on this two-year commitment, i assumed i would be returning to Monterey to build my little "hermitage" in the woods . . . when it seemed right a year ago to sell my property to Lilian, i began to get inklings that my path might be different than i anticipated—and, for now, this seems to be the case . . . .
. . . so, it is with great sadness that i must sell the New Spirit . . . my prayer is that someone(s) will come along to hold and develop the vision which so many have dreamed for it . . . i wish i could express in person to each one of you who have passed through its doors my good wishes and affection . . . please know i hold you as friends and as a community in my heart and prayers each day . . . and i look forward to being home again this summer . . .

until then,
Nan Merrill

To the Editor:

I just received today, March 18, the March issue of *Monterey News*. I was particularly interested in the article on the meeting between Monterey Selectmen and summer residents (or part timers, as you described us).

I am sure that the reason for the "low attendance" at the February meeting was because it was the dead of winter, and summer people couldn't come.

On the other hand, had I known, in advance, that the March meeting was scheduled for the 12th, I am sure I would have been there. I assume attendance was "light" again.

I hope there will be sufficient notice of future meetings so that there might be a broader attendance with a greater exchange of ideas.

Best Wishes

William M. Ginsburg

To the Editor:

An Open Letter to the Monterey Preservation Land Trust:

Dear Former Fellow Members:

You recently wrote asking me to rejoin your organization. Included with the request was a notice about the proposed Land Bank Legislation. This is without question a fine idea. I take exception, however, to the method of financing which exempts first-time FULL-TIME home buyers. Why are full-time buyers given preferential status? Why is it that a full-time resident does not pay his fair share? I do not wish to support any organization that does not treat all people fairly. What applies to one segment of the community should apply to all.

— Joanne Tuttle

To the Editor:

Preparations for war have cost the United States $2 trillion since 1981. This amounts to $21,000 for each American household.

Actually, even $1 billion, *one thousand million dollars,* is an amount of money so large that it simply staggers the imagination. Suppose you had been born on the day Christ was born, that you were still alive today and that you had been able to save money at the fantastic rate of one cent for every second that you lived—that is, $.60 for every minute, $36 for every hour, or $864 for every day of your life during these past two thousand years. At that rate, it would take you another thousand years to save up one single billion dollars. One billion seconds ago, Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the second year of his presidency, and Earl Warren was chief justice of the United States Supreme Court; one billion minutes ago, Nero had just burned down Rome, and Jesus Christ had died on the cross less than fifty years before: one billion hours ago, people lived in caves, and the first written language was still more than 100,000 years away; but $1 billion ago, in terms of government expenditures, was just last night.

If $1 billion is such an incomprehensibly large sum, how can the human mind possibly conceive of the purchasing power of $1 trillion—*one thousand billion dollars* or *one million million dollars?* Such an amount of money is virtually beyond our comprehension. Can you imagine that if you had a stack of $1,000 bills four inches high, you would be a millionaire, but a trillion dollars would be a stack of $1,000 bills that would reach sixty-three miles into the sky. Or, for perhaps an even more dramatic illustration: a million dollar bills, laid end to end, would just about cover the distance from New York to Philadelphia; *a billion dollar bills would span the earth four times around the equator; but a trillion dollar bills would stretch more than two hundred times to the moon and back.*

To get a picture of how much $1 trillion can buy, here's an example using the Midwest as an illustration: with that amount of money, $1 trillion, we could build a $75,000 house, place it on $5,000 worth of land, furnish it with $10,000 worth of furniture, put a $10,000 car in the garage—and give all this to each and every family throughout a six-state Midwestern region—to each and every family, to be more precise, in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado and Iowa. After having done this, we would still have enough left out of our trillion dollars to build a $10 million hospital and a $10 million library for each of 250 cities and towns throughout the six-state region. After having done all that, we would still have enough money left to build 500 schools at $10 million each for 500 communities in this region. And after having done all that, we would still have enough left out of our trillion to put aside, at ten percent annual interest, a sum of money that would pay a salary of $25,000 per year for an army of 10,000 nurses, the same salary for an army of 10,000 teachers and an annual cash allowance of $5,000 for each and every family throughout that six-state region—not just for one year, but forever.

And to think that Star Wars will cost at least $1 trillion and it can't possibly work!

— Donna Bartell

To the Editor:

I like the *Monterey News* just as it is.

A happy reader,

Ruth Rosenblatt

FROM THE MARCH NEWSLETTER — NEW MARLBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL

The Monterey kindergartners were delighted to see *Peter and the Wolf* by the Berkshire Ballet, and to add to their enjoyment they performed their own version of the drama numerous times at school.

They are working on the letters N, O and P, and they are learning the alphabet in sign language from Linda Thorpe, kindergarten aide. The pupils have begun a unit on ordinal numbers in conjunction with the calendar.

Their science unit on dinosaurs is almost complete, and they are beginning a unit on planting, starting with sprouts. Thus far only the alfalfa has been enjoyed at snack. In social studies the children are studying globes and maps and in the process are discovering where different languages are spoken. Rebecca St. Jock moved to Springfield. She will be missed by all her little friends in Monterey.

CONTRIBUTORS

As the returns from our 1988-1989 fund appeal start to come in we gratefully present the names of the contributors whose checks arrived in the last several months *before* the new appeal:

Lillian and Mickey Wright
Irv and Shirley Yost
Kenneth P. Kahn
Joan Reed
Pearl Tiffany
Joann Elam
Margaret and Lester Clark
Dorothy Law
Marcella S. Kropf
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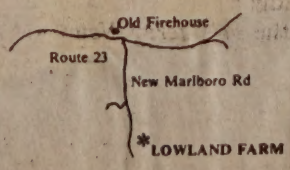

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ROADS & MACHINERY COMMITTEE NOTES

The Roads & Machinery Committee would like to thank the Monterey townspeople for bearing with the Highway crew during the spring mud season. By the time you read this, all of the roads should have been smoothed up once. We were very fortunate to be able to hire former Highway Superintendent Harold Crine to be our part-time grader operator. We are also hiring as of May 2 Peter LePrevost as a full-time Highway employee. We are presently interviewing for the last full-time Highway employee position.

We would also like to thank at this time Gould Farm for supplying us with a large labor crew to sweep the center of town. We would also like to thank Don Amstead, our Superintendent, and Don Vincent, our only Highway employee at the time, for getting this thankless job done promptly. The machine sweeper will be in town the week of May 5 to finish the rest of the intersection.

The Roads & Machinery Committee ask for the support of the community in our request for a new one-ton four-wheel-drive pickup. When we went to the pickup snowplowing program several years ago, it was decided that the pickup trucks should be replaced every six years due to the wear and tear they receive plowing the roads.

Thank you for your continued support.

— Rick Mielke
Chairman, Roads & Machinery Committee

AD RATES

One-inch classified ads (1″ x 3⅝″)	$ 2.50
Two-inch busines cards (2″ x 3⅝″)	5.00
Three-inch ad (3″ x 3⅝″)	7.50
Four-inch ad (4″ x 3⅝″)	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

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Personal Notes Editor	Stephanie Grotz
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